

Fred Y. Hoshiyama

*YMCA Leader, Youth Advocate,
Humanitarian*

Honorary Degree Recipient



Throughout his more than 40-year career with the YMCA, Fred Hoshiyama seized times of adversity as opportunities to improve life. This was never more apparent than in 1942 when he was a prime force in organizing YMCAs at government internment camps in Utah to meet the social, educational and recreational needs of evacuated children.

Mr. Hoshiyama's YMCA career was distinguished by his insight into changing social problems and needs, and applying Y values to help young people to grow into strong adults. His first position with the Y was as boy's work secretary at the San Francisco Japanese branch after graduating from the University of California at Berkeley. He received his master's degree in education from Springfield College and moved on to become a YMCA youth worker. Rising through several YMCA positions, he became executive director of the Buchanan Street YM-YWCA in San Francisco, which he changed into a more inclusive multiracial facility.

Fred Y. Hoshiyama

*YMCA Leader, Youth Advocate,
Humanitarian*

Honorary Degree Recipient



By 1964, he had become executive director of San Francisco's Outer City YMCA branch with the nation's second-largest Hi-Y and Tri-Hi-Y programs. In 1970, as a member of the associate staff of the National Program and Urban Development Division, he took on responsibility for the more than 250 training workshops for Y professionals on developing self esteem, preventing gang violence and substance abuse, and other youth programs. In 1971, he was named national project director of the YMCA National Youth Program Using Minibikes, serving more than 250,000 high-risk teenagers. He is credited with the program's 90 percent success rate with participating first offenders who did not return to the juvenile justice system.

Busier than ever in his retirement, Mr. Hoshiyama contributes his expertise to help community organizations with financial development, planning, building staff effectiveness, and program development. Well into his ninth decade, he regularly gives inspirational presentations to YMCA training programs across the country. His lifetime of service can be characterized by his hobby, "having FUN," which has been a key to reaching youths who are going through their own times of adversity.